

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

October 6, 2000

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: ROGER BALLENTINE 
RE: OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL INITIATIVES WEEKLY

Climate Change

Press, Science and Industry

Energy efficiency standards for air conditioners will increase by 20 percent under a new DOE rule, the last in a series of appliance-related standards that included heat pumps, water heaters, refrigerators and fluorescent lamps. These standards will save 2.4 quads of energy by 2010, the equivalent of providing lighting for all U.S. households for two years, and will reduce U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 21 million metric tons of carbon, or more than 1.3% of all U.S. emissions.

Oil companies around the world are increasing investments in renewable and alternative energy, *The Wall Street Journal* reported (10/4). British Petroleum and Shell each plan investments of between \$500 million and \$1 billion over the next few years. Texaco, the U.S. oil company most aggressively seeking alternative energy sources, is investing primarily in development of fuels cells.

An iceberg the size of Connecticut has splintered off the Ross Ice Shelf in Antarctica, part of an "increased amount of iceberg calving" according to NASA scientists, and reported by *CNN*, *ABC* and others (10/5). Researchers are not certain about the cause, but think global warming may play a role.

The sun's contribution to global warming may be overstated in some climate models according to scientists from the European Space Agency. "From 1970 on the main influence (on global warming) has been human activity," researchers stated. "All evidence suggests that it's greenhouse rather than solar forcing that's the problem."

The Kyoto Protocol

U.S. climate negotiators held four separate ministerial meetings in Europe this week with the EU, the African Ministers, other G-77 ministers, and our Umbrella Group allies to set the stage for the next major round of negotiations -- COP-6 -- in The Hague in mid-November. We seem to be making some progress with the EU in trying to balance the need for environmentally sound rules with the need to make the Kyoto Protocol as inexpensive as is feasible. The Europeans continued to press their concern that our desire to take full advantage of the flexibility mechanisms and to make extensive use of sinks will undermine the requirement for the U.S. to take strong domestic action. The G-77, under the very aggressive leadership of Nigeria, again threatened to block agreement at COP-6 if their demands are not met. These demands include that developed countries provide them with new financial resources and transfer of technology, as well as compensation for oil producing nations for any reduced global demand for their products. Clearly, seeking commitments for any additional developing country actions to fight climate change at COP-6 remains enormously challenging.

Legislative

On Tuesday, October 3, Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Representatives Joseph Knollenberg (R-MI) and Jo Ann Emerson (R-MO), joined by several conservative interest groups, filed a lawsuit against YOU and Neal Lane in an attempt to prevent final publication of the National Assessment of the potential consequences of climate change for the United States. The assessment, which was mandated by Congress and tasked to the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) of OSTP, is in the final stages of revision after three years of workshops, research, and analyses. The suit charges that the assessment process violated various aspects of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and the U.S. Global Change Research Act of 1990 (the authorizing legislation of the U.S. Global Change Research Program).

On the appropriations front, we are doing fairly well. In Energy and Water, we got an overall increase from FY00 of 20% for renewable energy and other Climate Change Technology Initiative (CCTI) accounts. In the Interior Bill, we secured a 10% increase over FY00 for our energy conservation and efficiency programs (more than half of our requested increase). Our negotiations over VA-HUD appear to have yielded a 20 % increase in EPA's climate programs over FY00.

cc: The Vice President
John Podesta
Steve Ricchetti
Sandy Berger
Martin Baily
Chuck Brain
Charles Burson
George Frampton
Neal Lane
Robert Lawrence